Delhi	1317kl
Bombay	1080kl
Calcutta	2166kl
Madras	243kl

(b) and (c) The estimated and actual off-take of unleaded petrol in the four metropolitan cities during April, 1995 is as under:

	Estimated	Actual
Delhi	202kl	166.0kl
Bombay	140kl	27.0kl
Calcutta	101kl	5.5kl
Madras	54kl	25.7kl

(d) and (e) The quantity sold depends upon requirement of fuel for the new cars fitted with catalytic converters. Hence it is too early to make a realistic assessment as unleaded petrol has been introduced only from 1-4-95.

Joint venture company with Iran

5531. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

((a) whether it is a fact that India and Iran have agreed to set up a joint venture company of exploration and production of oil and gas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the National Iran Oil Company for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and National Iranian Oil Company for the formation of a Joint Venture with the objective of seeking global opportunities for exploration, development and services in oil and gas sectors.

Introduction of credit card system by the oil companies

5532. SHRI VIRRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there any proposal by the oil companies to indroduce Credit Card system:

(b) if so, what are its main features;

(c) in how many cities it is being introduced; and

(d) the reaction of the petrol pumps owners and the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Credit Card system has initially been introduced by the IOC in Delhi, Jaipur, Calcutta, Howrah, Jamshedpur, Bombay, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Poona, Madras, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Coimbatore, Maduari, Cochin, Trichy and Mangalore.

The credit Card system is scheduled to be introduced by the BPCL and the HPCL also in a few selected cities.

Credit card holders will be able to uplift fuel/other requirements at retail outlets and pay of the services against credit cards. The cards will help the dealers in reducing cash transactions and overnight cash holdings, which is risky. Also carrping large sums of money by customers for puchase of fuel would get reduced. Besides that, credit card system will do away with the cumbersome documentation at ROs where

the pump attendants are either semi-literate or illiterate.

(d) The response from the general public has been encouraging. Reports so far indicate that the retail outlet dealers have generally reacted favourably to the introduction of Credit Cards for setting the bills.

Import of Natural Gas from Indonesia and Bangladesh

5533. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to import natural gas from Indonesia and Bangladesh, apart from the Arab countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present production of natural gas in the country and the quantum of gas to be imported;

(d) the terms and conditions of import; and

(e) whether Government propose to boost production of natural gas, rather than import it and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (e) The proposals for the import of natural gas from Indonesia and Bangladesh are at a preliminary stage of examination. The quantity to be imported and the terms and conditions have not been decided yet. 53.09 MMSCMD was produced in the country in 1994-95. Steps taken to boost the production of natural gas include the development of new fields and additional development of some of the existing fields.

LPG/Agencies in Punjab

5534. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LPG agencies in Punjab, as on the 31st March, 1995, district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of LPG dealerships in the State during the next two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As on 1.4.1995, there were 220 LPG distributorships in Punjab.

(b) to (d) In addition to the proposals pending from previous marketing plans, 40 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1994—96 for Punjab.

गुजरात में गैस एजेंसियों का बंद किया जाना

5535. श्री कनक सिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरौला :

श्री वी0 राजन चेल्लप्पा :

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में बंद की गई एजन्सियों की संख्या कितनी है ;

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं और इनमें से कितनी एजेंसियों को पुनः आरंभ करने की अनुमति प्रदान की गई है ; और